

I'm almost seventy years old and don't recall any campaign activity as blatantly cheap and outrageous as Sinclair's proposed anti-Kerry program. It's advertising for Bush, clearly, and as such should be paid for. The growing backlash against Sinclair should begin to reveal to its imperious leaders that we, the people, aren't as stupid as they obviously believe us to be. License renewal is bound to come up some time in the near future.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.